



**MAMMOTH LAKES FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
STATION #1, 3150 MAIN STREET  
MAMMOTH LAKES, CA 93546**

**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 13, 2017**

**1) CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL**

*The meeting was called to order at 12:10*

*Board of Commissioners present: Carole Schilz, Buck Wahl, John Mendel, and Roger Curry. Commissioner Bret Bihler was absent.*

*Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District present: Fire Chief Frank Frievalt, Fire Marshal/ Division Chief Thom Heller, Division Chief Scott Walker, Secretary Jody Holl.*

*Mammoth Lakes Firefighter Association Board member present: Michael Payne*

*In the audience - Mammoth Lakes Firefighters: Ales Tomaier, Brett Reed, Robert Williams, Division Chief Natalie Morrow.*

**2) APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 19, 2017 MEETING MINUTES**

*The minutes were motioned for approval by Commissioner Mendel and seconded by Commissioner Schilz. All in favor.*

**3) SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS - None**

**4) PUBLIC COMMENT - None**

**5) CONSENT AGENDA - None**

**6) BUDGET**

**a) Review 2017/2018 Budget**

*Chief Frievalt:*

*We are 38% through our year and we are on glide path with most of our costs. Our budgeted expense is \$3,000,551 and our actual to date is 35% \$1,053,633.*

*Page 9 shows are Grant budget. Most of the activity there is related to the video conferencing equipment were putting in here and in other Fire Districts throughout the County.*

*Our auditors are here today and tomorrow. We have nothing out of the ordinary to report. I let them know that there has been a delay in delivery of our Rosenbauer Squad Truck 3331. The depreciation start date will begin upon delivery.*

*Chief Frievalt will include, under Chief comments in the audit, our final analysis on the Capital Repair/ Replacement Plan with a Designated Reserve Budget. Having a structured reserve looks good in the audit.*

**7) OLD BUSINESS**

**a) Continue discussion on Capital Repair/ Replacement Plan for Designated Reserve Budget**

*Chief Frievalt:*

*Has assigned staff members with reviewing the Capital Replacement Schedule. They will evaluate the schedules replacement cycles and budget amounts for equipment, apparatus, and facilities. Are we purchasing and/or repairing at the right time and amount?*

*Scott Walker: We are focusing on the equipment and apparatus schedule, this will have the biggest impact on the budget.*

*Chief Frievalt: Has met with the Association to review increased staffing ideas.*

*Chief Frievalt: Once all meetings have been concluded we will come back to the Board with recommendations for the Capitol Repair Replacement Plan and proposed amounts for unrestricted and restricted reserves. We will have staffing recommendations, as well.*

*Carole Schilz suggested changing the depreciation schedule from 25 years to 30 years on some of the equipment. That this could free up cash flow for the District.*

*Scott Walker and his group have already begun to do this.*

- b) Verbal agreement in principle to have Richard W. Liebersbach serve as our local legal counsel, pending mutual approval of a retainer agreement.

*Chief Frievalt contacted Rich Liebersbach of Liebersbach, Mohun, Carney & Reed Attorneys at Law. Jim Reed of the same partnership was our previous local legal counsel. A copy of our agreement was sent to him and he will review it and get back to us. He would look forward to working with us.*

8) NEW BUSINESS - None

9) REPORTS, REQUESTS, AND COMMUNICATIONS FOR BOARD REVIEW - None

10) DISTRICT CHIEF COMMENTS

- a) Chief Heller to discuss the Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire (CPAW) awarded to the Town of Mammoth Lakes and the Mammoth Lakes Fire Protection District.

*Chief Heller: CPAW is a nation-wide organization. It is a combination of Headwaters Inc., and the Forest Service through their Rural America program.*

*Each year since 2015 they have chosen eight communities across America that are impacted by wildfires occurring on National Forest lands. They have chosen Mammoth Lakes as one of their eight communities for 2018. They will send experienced staff to collect data and conduct research that will increase our knowledge to create a wildfire safe community. They will give 100% assistance on planning, educational information, and research opportunities that will allow the community to move forward with their efforts in wildfire protection.*

*The data they collect will allow the Town to update its safety element and include wildfire in their General Plan as required by the State of California. Our CWPP (Community Wildfire Protection Plan) will also get updated.*

*Chief Frievalt: They are not sending us money, they are sending us trained personnel. We can use the data collected to pursue stronger building codes for a fire-resistant*

*community. The fact that the Town and the District will be working closely together on this is a good thing.*

*Receiving this award makes us a stronger candidate on future grant applications.*

- b) Chief Frievalt follow up to the meeting he had with Madera County and Mono County regarding the incident that occurred in Reds Meadow on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Chief Frievalt and representatives from Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, Mammoth Lakes Police Department, and Mono County EMS met with Madera County Sheriff's Office. Madera County was surprised to learn of the activity that occurs in the Reds Meadow area year-round. Chief Frievalt explained to them the best way for EMS and rescue operations to be successful, is by going through our dispatch center at the Mono County Sheriff's Office. Chief Frievalt let Sheriff Braun know that they had met with Madera County.  
*Within 72 hours of the incident Sheriff Braun sent out a correction notification policy that any call for service in the Reds Meadow area would be fully responded to.*
- c) *We will not have a 2018 Academy. We have not had enough interest to justify a class. We will use the time to focus on Engineer and Chief Officer training.*
- d) *We have received a \$3,000 donation from the Gottwald's. They own property near the Arcularius Ranch that we protected from the Owens River Fire that occurred in September 2016. The money will go towards training.*

#### 11) BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

*Commissioner Curry asked about the feasibility of creating a ballot measure to add a \$100 in property tax, designated for additional full time firefighting staff.*

*Chief Frievalt: 1) We need to have our financial house in good order to show we are good stewards of public funds. 2) Timing is everything. We need to look at what else is going on with changes in tax plans, property tax, sales tax, and other public entities competing for the same dollar. Chief Frievalt would need to do research to understand the steps and procedures of creating a ballot measure. How much money do we need for additional staffing? Would it be a fixed rate or percentage?*

*Chief Thom Heller recalls the Board voting on a similar measure several years back (1993, 1994), but it was never enacted.*

*Commissioner Mendel felt that with all the fires that have occurred in California and the ever-present danger of fire here in Mammoth, property owners would be willing to pay for a dedicated full time firefighting force here in town.*

*Chief Frievalt will start the discussion.*

#### 12) LEGAL COUNSEL ADVICE – None present

#### 13) MLFPD FIREFIGHTER ASSOCIATION COMMENTS

*Annual holiday party is set for Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at Little Eagle Lodge*

#### 14) ANNOUNCEMENTS –

*Checknight is at 5:30 pm, Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at the Mogul Restaurant*

15) CLOSED SESSION - None

16) ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES

- a) I have purchased online sexual harassment training for Board members.*
- b) Commissioner Mendel has completed his ethics training*
- c) Next month's meeting was set for 12 noon, December 19, 2017 here at Fire Station 1*

17) ADJOURNEMENT – *The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 pm*

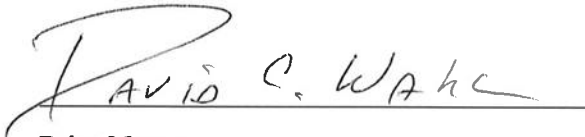
  
Commissioner signature

12-21-17  
Date

Carole A. Schiltz  
Print Name

  
Commissioner signature

12/21/17  
Date

  
Print Name